

SENATOR LANDIS: In examining the national experience, one of the few bright spots in the area of workers' comp is the State of Oregon in which after a consensus task force between labor and management, there was organized labor and essentially the state chamber. A number of provisions were changed with the addition of...with safety committees. Since that time, Oregon has had two and I think three straight years in which premiums have gone down and at the same time the benefits that workers received a major, I think 30 percent increase. Now what we found was that the Oregon experience had a larger state bureaucracy to assist, but one of the ways in which they found savings was to encourage workplace safety through the safety committees and that's where the idea generally came from.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Are these safety committees the same as Oregon's? Does this statute mirror Oregon's statute?

SENATOR LANDIS: In a number of respects. I can't tell you that it does up and down the line and I can't tell you that we have the same level of bureaucratic oversight that they do in Oregon. So I don't think you can say that this has the transplanted hopes of exactly the Oregon experience.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Do you know, does Oregon have...it's my understanding and maybe I'm wrong, but it's my understanding that Oregon has a very well-funded, for lack of a better word, state OSHA program. Are you familiar at all with that?

SENATOR LANDIS: I, too, have heard that they have a very well-funded state OSHA program.

SENATOR LINDSAY: How does that compare to Nebraska's?

SENATOR LANDIS: My understanding is that I think it's like a \$9 million program. What you'll find in this bill is that there's just under a million dollar program of consultation and inspection. On the other hand, Oregon is a lot larger and there's a good deal more manufacturing there, but the state bureaucracy is considerably larger in Oregon.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Would it be fair to say that the enforcement mechanism in this bill is the OSHA referral that Senator Withem and, I guess, I discussed on the floor a day or two ago?

SENATOR LANDIS: Well, I think it's a couple of things. Number